



**Sheila Dixon**  
*President,*  
Baltimore City Council

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100 N. Holliday Street, Room 400 • Baltimore Maryland 21202  
410-396-4804 • Fax: 410-539-0647

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**CONTACT:**  
**Ruffin Brown**  
**443-984-3808 (desk)**

## **Mayor Sheila Dixon to Retain Leonard Hamm as Police Commissioner**

*Chief's Experience Best Qualify Him to Maintain Consistent Leadership, Enhance Working Strategies, Involve Communities and City Agencies*

Baltimore, MD (January 16, 2007) – In keeping with incoming Mayor Sheila Dixon's goals of leading a seamless and smooth transition and governing efficiently and effectively, she confirmed today that Police Commissioner Leonard Hamm will remain as head of the Baltimore City Police Department. The decision to keep Commissioner Hamm was influenced by his frontline familiarity with the issues that affect Baltimore neighborhoods along with her desire to establish consistent leadership, maintain those strategies that have shown results, while also adopting strategies that are better suited for non-violent crimes.

"Commissioner Hamm is a cop's commissioner who understands and believes that building positive community relations is key to reducing violent crime in Baltimore," stated Mayor Dixon. "His efforts to provide stability and consistency within the Department have been appreciated by those he leads as well as the residents of this great City. I look forward to working closer with him in the future to make Baltimore a safer place to live and visit."

Leonard Hamm ascended to the ranks of Chief of Police after serving as a sworn member for 22 years. His years on the force provided him with a first-hand understanding of the day-to-day challenges that affect Baltimore's police officers.

Mayor Dixon has stated that she plans to work with Commissioner Hamm, the State's Attorney's Office, other law enforcement officials, community leaders and City agencies to begin implementing strategies that more closely align with community policing. "What Hamm understands is that a holistic approach to public safety does not mean being soft on crime," stated Mayor Dixon. "Enforcement and arrests still need to happen. It just means that in addition to the enforcement and arrests, which are obviously chiefly a police function, other city resources must be brought to bear in helping to fight crime."

Crime fighting initiatives under consideration include new anti-gang, gun reduction and youth-focused strategies. Also under consideration are plans to focus on more aggressive efforts for the successful rehabilitation of juvenile offenders. Additionally, the Baltimore City Police Department weekly ComStat meetings, and the Mayor's biweekly PoliceStat, initiated to improve crime-fighting efficiency will continue.

Mayor Dixon also announced that every City agency will contribute and heavy solicitation of community involvement will be sought. She plans to talk in more detail about her plans for public safety and crime fighting after she takes office on Thursday.

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